

REA-APPRRE
Annual Business Meeting
Westin Waltham
Chicago, IL
November 9, 2014
Draft Minutes

- I. Opening Comments: The meeting opened at 12:15pm with a welcome by Siebren Miedema, REA president.
- II. Approval of Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was presented. Dean Blevins moved and Evelyn Parker seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion passed.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from November 4, 2012 Business Meeting. Suzanne Johnson moved and Annie Lockhart seconded that the Minutes be approved as amended. Motion passed. (There were no corrections.)
- IV. Reports
 - A. Executive Secretary (Lucinda Huffaker)

Lucinda Huffaker reported that our current REA membership is 349, with 462 active, according to our new membership database. (Last year Taylor & Francis reported a membership of 301.)

This year, there were 177 persons registered for the annual meeting with 64 students, 32 international participants and 54 practitioners. We have 37 breakout sessions, 75 presentations, 85 presenters (35 students and 7 practitioners).

Lucinda has tracked numbers for the last four annual meetings and there is a trend of increasing attendance.

Some of the increasing trends are in the following areas:

- Student attendance from 24 to 50 to 52 to 68
- International participants from 11 to 36 to 32

Events during meeting:

- Community Luncheon attendance from 109 to 99 to 146 to 147
- Banquet attendance from 121 to 110 to 141 to 152

Since October 1, we have been keeping our own membership. (It was previously handled by Taylor & Francis.) It has been difficult to know our exact membership since we did not handle it, but now we will be able to track it much more efficiently.

We are no longer bound to a calendar year for membership. Membership will be for 12 months regardless of when one becomes a member. Members will receive all editions of the journal each year.

Our new membership software requires that we go back to using passwords to protect our membership information. The first time that you go to the site you will need to create a password. You will have to create one by saying that you forgot your password.

Now new members can get immediate access to the journal. You can logon from our website without an additional password. If you have any problems, e-mail Lucinda.

In 2015, we will meet in Atlanta at Buckhead Marriot (on the Marta transportation system.)

A motion was made to accept the Executive Secretary's report by Carmichael Crutchfield and seconded by Dean Blevins. The report was approved.

B. Treasurer's Report (Michael Horan)

Michael Horan presented the treasurer's report and called attention to a few details in the report. We are in healthy position as an organization. Line 4: checking – this is a higher number because we have not paid for the annual meeting which will be approximately \$37,000.

Line 10: investments are good

We have lowered our draw from 6% to 5% of investments

Line 31 and 32 – reflects the change in having 2 journal editors at this time, an editor and an editor-elect

Line 46 – reflects an increase in our Insurance

The Board voted to have a review rather than an audit. (It is usually recommended that if an organization has less than \$500,000, a review is sufficient.) A review costs less to do and is an appropriate action.

A motion was made by Ronnie Prevost to accept the report of the treasurer and to accept the 2015 budget and Barbara Senecal Davis seconded it. It was approved.

C. Network Coordinator's Report (Mary Hess).

As the new network coordinator, Mary is working to support networking with as many tools as possible. REA brochures are available when members are visiting other conferences. Mary thanked Jonathan

LeMaster-Smith for monitoring the REA twitter feed. And she reminded members to attend REA at AAR.

D. Journal Editor's Report (Jack Seymour)

Jack Seymour, editor, introduced Joyce Mercer as the editor-elect. We have a new contract with Taylor & Francis. Our publishing continues to fund us. Because of our contact with Taylor and Francis, 2100 libraries around the world have access to our Journal. That is one reason why we have increasing submissions and international submissions.

The Journal is now making use of new software that is an online platform for submission and review of articles.

A motion was made by Bob O'Gorman and seconded by Chuck Foster to approve the Journal Editor's report. It was approved.

E. Nominating Committee Report and Election of New Board Members (Siebren Miedema)

Siebren explained that the Board has refined a plan to adjust the sequence for board rotation so that we can maintain continuity of history and experience. In order to accomplish this plan, it became necessary to extend some Board member's term. The board members below have agreed to continue serving on the Board for the time periods indicated.

The following members who were asked to serve **one additional year**:

- Leah Gunning Francis (Chair Academic Disciplines Forum) through 2015
- Ted Brelsford- through 2015 (Chair Call for Proposals Committee)
- David White (on Faith Communities Forum/Journal representative) through 2016
- Justice Baird (Harper Committee) for 1 additional year, ending in 2016

The following members who were asked to serve **two additional years**:

- Susanne Johnson (Chair Publics Forum) - through 2016
- Najeeba Syeed-Miller (on Academic Disciplines Forum/Journal rep) - through 2017
- Carmichael Crutchfield (on Faith Communities Forum/Call for Papers rep) – through 2018

The Committee offers the following slate:

Nominations:

- Bert Roebben: Vice-President and Program Chair Elect. Dortmund University, Germany
- Kevin Sandberg, CSC: Treasurer, 3-year term. University of Notre Dame
- Kathy Winings: Chair, Religious Education in Faith Communities Forum, 3-year term. Unification Theological Seminary
- Mary Elizabeth Moore: Harper Committee, 4-year term. Boston University
- Barbara Senecal-Davis: Doctoral Student Representative, 2-year term. Fordham University. First Presbyterian Church, New York
- Ina Ter Avest: Nominations Committee, At-Large, 3-year term. VU Amsterdam

V. Election of new board members

Noel Barrett Shuell moved and Bud Horell seconded that the slate be accepted. There being no additional nominations from the floor, the question was called. Motion passed.

VI. 2015 Annual Meeting Bud Horrell

Bud presented the theme of the 2015 conference: *“The Power of Imagining: Imagination as the Heart of Religious Education.”*

See the website for banners which are representative of the theme and for information about the call for papers.

We will meet in Atlanta on Nov. 6-8, 2015

There were questions about why we were going back to Atlanta so soon after the last meeting in Atlanta. There are only a few places that meet all of the criteria, one of which is availability to public transportation. After our meeting in Atlanta, we will meet in Pittsburgh.

IV. Other Business and Reports

A. REA Archives presentation – will be done next year

B. Announcements

REA and AAR meeting in San Diego – it will be a book panel on the new Horizons book *“God Beyond Borders: Interreligious Learning Among Faith Communities”* by Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook

We are in the process of updating the brochure

VIII. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mai-Anh Tran for the engaging program.

Thanks to all participants.

A special thanks was extended to Board members who will be going off the Board this year: Michael Horan, Richard Rimarz, Kevin Sandberg, and Yolanda Smith.

Thanks were also extended to Lucinda and Gordon Huffaker for their work at the conference and during the year, and to Mary Hess and husband, Eric Celeste.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Russ Dalton moved and Carmichael Crutchfield seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia A. Lee
Recording Secretary